

obtained.

In step S55, a group number is searched for for the individual number H3 of the attention destination to obtain the group number G1 to which the individual number H3 serving as the attention destination belongs. In the next step S56, it is determined that YES is obtained because the group number to which the individual number H3 serving as the attention destination belongs is G1, and the individual number H5 has already been registered to the group G1. The processing is finished.

The group table is updated (is the same as that shown in Fig. 22) as shown in Fig. 24, and the attention-destination table is updated (is the same as that shown in Fig. 23) as shown in Fig. 25.

With the processing described above, when information related to all individual numbers are input to the attention-destination table, the "registration to group table" column is set to all "O" in the attention-destination table. All individual numbers have already been registered to any one of groups as members in the group table.

5. Seating-order determination operation through grouping in the seating-order determination device

When group determination is finished in the processing described above, the seating-order determination device GJD

09072384-100501

determines a seating order such that persons belonging to the same group are collectively arranged.

To this end, the seating-order determination device GJD holds seating-order information as well as group information.

When a group is changed, the seating-order determination device GJD refers to the held seating-order information and changes it by processing shown in a flowchart of Fig. 26 to determine a new seating order. This processing will be described below.

In step S101, it is determined whether there is a group (hereinafter called a divided group) in which its members are separated.

When no group is divided at the seating order used before a change, in other words, when members are collectively arranged in all groups, since the target condition is satisfied, the seating order used before a change is used as is. The processing shown in Fig. 26 is finished.

When it is determined in step S101 that there is a divided group, a group having the largest number of members is determined among divided groups in step S102. When there are a plurality of divided groups, a group having the minimum group number is regarded as the largest group. Since the largest group is divided, if a set of one person or more collectively arranged is called a sub group, the

09972341 10504  
105007 1832660

largest group is formed of a plurality of sub groups.

When the largest divided group is determined, the largest sub group is determined in the largest divided group and a sub group located closest to the largest sub group is determined in step S103. When there are a plurality of groups having the largest number of members among sub groups, a group to which a person having the minimum individual number belongs is regarded, for example, as the largest sub group. When separate sub groups are located at the same distance from the largest sub group clockwise and counterclockwise, the sub group located at the distance counterclockwise is regarded, for example, as the sub group closest to the largest group.

When the sub group closest to the largest sub group is determined, the determined sub group is connected to the largest sub group in step S104. This connection process will be described below.

The determined sub group closest to the largest sub group counterclockwise from the largest sub group is shifted clockwise to connect to the largest sub group. The determined sub group closest to the largest sub group clockwise from the largest sub group is shifted counterclockwise to connect to the largest sub group. When the determined sub group is located at the same distance from the largest sub group clockwise and counterclockwise,

2025007-4322650